

**Press Release**  
**April 13, 2004**  
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**U.S. Embassy in Bolivia to sponsor concerts  
of the National Symphony Orchestra**

The National Symphony Orchestra will present a series of concerts entitled 'Latin Inspiration and the Great Masters of the Americas' from Tuesday 13 to Thursday 15 at the Symphonic Center in La Paz, at 8:00pm. The U.S. Embassy and the Vice Ministry of Culture are sponsoring the concerts.

David Handel, conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra since 1997 said that the concert would present the diversity of the Americas: "The program is an inspiration of folk culture in the Americas, with the rhythms and music from Venezuela, Panama, and North America, which give us a taste of the diversity in the repertoire of the Americas."

Born in Buffalo, New York, David Handel arrived in Bolivia seven years ago and since then has worked on behalf of the National Symphony Orchestra. He says that when he came to the country he could not have imagined the progress that the orchestra would achieve. "I am very grateful, I am happy because the growth of the Symphony Orchestra is fulfilling."

The National Symphony Orchestra is supported by the Orchestra Foundation, Bolivian state funds, private enterprises and diplomatic organizations such as the U.S. Embassy.

The program to be played includes "Hoedown" from Rodeo ballet by Aaron Copland, a famous 20<sup>th</sup>-century American composer and three dances by African-American composer William Grant Still. A performance of the world-famous Venezuelan piece "Alma Llanera", by Pedro E. Gutierrez will conclude the first part of the concert.

In the second part, the orchestra will present its rendition of Antonin Dvorak's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony, *New World Symphony*, which was written shortly after Dvořák's arrival in America.